

32.3.1201 REPORTING RABIES. (1) Because of public health concerns, any person observing or having knowledge of any animal demonstrating clinical signs suggestive of rabies should immediately contact a local veterinarian, the state veterinarian, or a local health officer. Clinical signs of rabies in animals include, but are not limited to, abnormal behavior, aggression, irritability, change in vocalization, drooling or frothing at the mouth, inability to eat or drink, staggering, weakness, convulsions, and paralysis.

(2) All incidents of people being bitten by animals (domestic or wild) should be reported immediately to a physician or local public health officer.

32.3.1202 RABIES QUARANTINE. (1) During the quarantine period (minimum of 60 days), all non-vaccinated dogs, cats, and domestic ferrets are not permitted to run "at-large" or unattended and must remain confined to the owner's or caretaker's premise or under their immediate control.

(2) Any dog, cat, or domestic ferret currently vaccinated against rabies, as described above, are not under quarantine but may be subject to any local confinement ordinances enacted by city or county authorities conducting stray animal control programs.

32.3.1203 ISOLATION OF RABID OR SUSPECTED RABID ANIMALS. (1) Because of public health concerns, it is extremely important to confine and isolate suspected rabid animals in the care and supervision of a licensed veterinarian or an approved animal shelter. The suspect animals should be observed and examined daily by a licensed veterinarian.

32.3.1204 ISOLATION OF BITING ANIMALS. (1) All healthy dogs, cats, or domestic ferrets, regardless of rabies vaccination status, that bite a person should be confined, as described in ARM 32.2.1203, for a period of ten (10) days following the bite incident. The animal should not have any access to the general public and should be observed daily for signs suggestive of rabies. Any variance from the strict confinement recommendation would be at the discretion of the local health officer. Domestic animals other than dogs, cats, or domestic ferrets that bite a person may also be subject to confinement and observation, depending on the circumstances of the bite, history of rabies in the county, and health status of the animal. (3) Dogs, cats, or domestic ferrets that demonstrate clinical signs suggestive of rabies during the ten-day observation period should be humanely destroyed and tested (fluorescent antibody testing of specific brain tissues) for rabies. Wild animals, including wolves and wolf hybrids, that bite a person should immediately be humanely destroyed and tested for rabies. The local public health official, the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, and the office of the Montana state veterinarian must concur upon any exceptions to these recommendations.

32.3.1205 ANIMAL CONTACTS. (1) Any animal not currently vaccinated against rabies that is bitten by a known rabid animal must be humanely destroyed **or** held in quarantine, in strict confinement, for a period of 180 days. Quarantine at a location other than a veterinary facility or approved animal shelter must be approved by the office of the state veterinarian. The bitten animals **may** be vaccinated against rabies at the onset of the quarantine, however, they **must** be vaccinated one month prior to the conclusion of the 180 day quarantine (as per Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control)

Any dog, cat, domestic ferret, or livestock that is currently vaccinated against rabies and is bitten by a known rabid animal should be revaccinated immediately and kept under the owner's control and observed closely for 45 days.

32.3.1206 STRAY OR OWNERLESS ANIMALS. (1) All dogs, cats, and domestic ferrets that are not currently vaccinated against rabies are not permitted to run "at-large"; they must remain confined to the owner's or caretaker's premise or under their immediate control. Stray or ownerless dogs, cats, or domestic ferrets should impounded and kept under confinement until released by one of the following means:

- a) If claimed by owner or caretaker and provided with proof the animal(s) is currently vaccinated against rabies (rabies vaccination certificate); OR
- b) Officially vaccinated against rabies and released to owner or caretaker, followed by **14 days** of confinement to owner's or caretaker's premise or immediate control; OR
- c) Officially vaccinated and adopted out. The animal must remain confined on adopter's premise or under their immediate control for **14 days** following official rabies vaccination; OR
- d) Humanely destroyed if not claimed or adopted.

32.3.1207 LABORATORY EXAMINATION REQUIRED. (1) Appropriate brain tissue samples must be submitted to a qualified laboratory from all animals demonstrating clinical signs suggestive of rabies that died or where euthanized.

Thank you for attention to this matter. If you have additional questions regarding the attached quarantine, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,

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State Veterinarian

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